



THE NEW INDIAN EXPRESS

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5th phase sees lower turnout

MINOR SKIRMISHES

A young man died and his brother was severely injured after a suspected explosive, which they were carrying in a bag exploded in Prayagraj

55.76% voter turnout

In Pratapgarh district, Samajwadi Party candidate Gulshan Yadav's convoy was allegedly attacked

A Samajwadi Party candidate from the Colonegar Assembly constituency, his brothers and supporters were booked for allegedly raping a woman and heating her up

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A Russian armoured personnel carrier burning near the body of an unidentified soldier in Ukraine's Kharkiv on Sunday | AFP

Diplomacy amid N-sabre rattling, fierce fightback

Ukraine, Russia to hold talks today; Kharkiv sees intense street fighting

EXPRESS NEWS SERVICE

AS Russia's aggressive invasion of Ukraine entered the fourth day, the first window for a diplomatic resolution to the crisis opened with Kyiv agreeing to hold talks with Moscow. The development came after Ukraine President Volodymyr Zelenskyy and Belarus leader Alexander Lukashenko held a telephonic conversation. Earlier, Zelenskyy had refused to meet the Russian delegation in Belarus, citing the country's close relations with Russia.

The talks will now happen at the Ukraine-Belarus border near the Chernobyl exclusion zone. A Russian delegation is already at the Belarusian city of Gomel, near Ukraine's border. Zelenskyy's office said the two delegations will meet 'without preconditions' near the Pripyat River, to the north of Chernobyl. That Russia wants

to talk without any pre-conditions or any ultimatums in itself is a victory for Ukraine, Ukrainian Foreign Minister Dmytro Kuleba said in a televised address. The peace talks are scheduled to take place on Monday.

News of peace talks broke on a day when an angry Russian president Vladimir Putin dramatically escalated tensions by ordering his nuclear forces to be put on high alert. According to media reports, he was agitated by the gritty resistance of the Ukrainian forces and the aggressive statements and actions by leading NATO powers. He was hoping Kyiv would fall in a matter of hours but the fight now seems to be taking days to end. With sanctions kicking in from all fronts, the war is becoming more and more expensive for Russia. According to experts, a combination of these unfavourable factors has forced

Putin to push for talks.

Putin's N-move immediately drew furious reactions from the West. "This is dangerous rhetoric. This is a behavior which is irresponsible," CNN quoted NATO Secretary-General Jens Stoltenberg as saying. "It means that President Putin is continuing to escalate this war in a manner that is totally unacceptable," the US ambassador to UN said.

Ukrainian forces, which continued to stave off Russian invaders in Kyiv on Sunday, regained full control of the country's second-largest city, Kharkiv, after intense street fighting. "Kharkiv is fully under our control," the head of the regional administration, Oleg Sinigubov, said. He also claimed "demoralized" and "exhausted" Russian soldiers were abandoning their vehicles and surrendering to Ukrainian forces. P9

PM Modi chairs emergency meeting

Prime Minister Narendra Modi held a high-level meeting on the Ukraine crisis on Sunday, official sources said. The prime minister asserted that ensuring the safety of Indian students and evacuating them is the government's top priority

490 more Indians reach home safely

Two Air India flights — one from Romanian capital Bucharest and another from Hungary's Budapest — carrying 490 Indian nationals stranded in Ukraine, reached Delhi airport on Sunday | P8

Germany increases defence spending

German government said on Sunday it is committing 100 billion euros to a special fund for its armed forces, raising its defence spending above 2% of GDP. "It's clear we need to invest significantly more in the security of our country," Chancellor Olaf Scholz said

30 Karnataka students return, 367 still stranded

EXPRESS NEWS SERVICE @Bengaluru

SEVENTEEN of the 30 students from Karnataka, who have been safely evacuated from Ukraine, arrived at the Kempegowda International Airport (KIA) in Bengaluru on Sunday to witness emotional scenes among much-relieved families, relatives and friends.

The arriving students were flown in to Bengaluru under 'Operation Ganga', the mission to evacuate Indians from the war-torn country by flights by the Min-

istry of External Affairs through the Indian embassy in Ukraine.

While 12 students flew in from Mumbai at 8.40 am — to be welcomed by Union Minister of Parliamentary Affairs and Coal & Mines Pralhad Joshi, state Revenue Minister R Ashoka and Nodal Officer and Commissioner of Karnataka State Disaster Management Authority (KSDMA), Manoj Rajan — five others flew in from New Delhi at 8.25 pm. Another 13 students were to be flown from New Delhi and expected to land at KIA at 1.25 am on Monday P4



The first batch of 17 students from Karnataka, who were stranded in Ukraine, landed at the Kempegowda International Airport in Bengaluru on Sunday | A SHIVAM KUMAR FOR THE NEWSPAPER

Russian banks to be cut off from SWIFT

EXPRESS NEWS SERVICE

THE US, the European Union and other Western allies on Sunday stepped up their punitive measures against Russia, by deciding to throw out select Russian banks from the SWIFT messaging system and launch a joint task force to hunt down assets of sanctioned Russian companies and oligarchs.

Belgium-based Society for Worldwide Interbank Financial Telecommunication (SWIFT)

links around 11,000 banks and institutions in more than 200 countries, functioning as an important cog in the machinery of international finance.

Dubbed as one of the most disruptive sanctions, getting cut off from SWIFT could cripple Russian banks and practically make them unable to make or receive payments with foreign financial institutions for trade transactions.

However, expelling such a major country — Russia is the sec-

ond largest after the US in terms of number of users — comes with its own complications. For one, Russia has its own domestic financial infrastructure, including the SPFS system for bank transfers and the Mir system for card payments. Also, Moscow is likely to develop an alternative transfer system.

Meanwhile, Finland, Denmark and the EU joined Bulgaria, Czech Republic, Estonia, Germany and Poland in closing airspace to Russian planes.

Online school first to use advanced tech

DONNA EVA @Bengaluru

A completely online Bengaluru-based school is the first to announce integration of web3.0 technology to help encourage students to be more creative.

21K School, headquartered in Bengaluru, has around 3,000 students from 35 countries. From the next academic year, the school will introduce metaverse and blockchain technologies, like Non-Fungible Tokens (NFTs), as ways to help students learn and create. "Whenever someone creates, be it music, art, podcasts or apps, it's a big deal for us and we want to encourage this," said Santosh Kumar, school CEO and co-founder. P2

EXPRESS READ

Roadshows to be held soon for GIM

Bengaluru: The Karnataka Industries Department is making preparations for the Global Investors' Meet, planned for November this year. It will soon start roadshows in several cities in the country and also in other countries. P4

NATIONWIDE	FEB 26	FEB 27
Fresh cases	11,499	10,273
Recoveries	23,598	20,439
Deaths	255	243
KARNATAKA	FEB 26	FEB 27
Fresh cases	514	366
Recoveries	1,073	801
Deaths	19	17



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Issued on the occasion of the National Science Day, 2022, celebrating an integrated approach in science and technology for a sustainable future.

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#NationalScienceDay2022

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- Resident Individual Policyholders of the Corporation having one or more policies of the Corporation as on February 13, 2022 and Bid/Offer opening date are eligible.*
- Policyholder's PAN details should be updated with the Corporation on or before February 28, 2022.

* Please also refer draft red herring prospectus dated February 13, 2022

DEMAT Account Opening

- Go to the nearest Common Service Centre (CSC) to open a DEMAT account.
- OR
- Visit either of these websites for registered Depository Participants (DP) to open a DEMAT account:
NSDL: https://nsdl.co.in/Open_NSDL_Demat_Account.php
CDSL: <https://www.cdslindia.com/DP/dplist.aspx>

LIFE INSURANCE CORPORATION OF INDIA is proposing, subject to applicable statutory and regulatory requirements, receipt of requisite approvals, market conditions and other considerations, to undertake an initial public offer of its Equity Shares and has filed the draft red herring prospectus dated February 13, 2022 ("DRHP") read with the corrigendum dated February 15, 2022. The DRHP is available on the websites of SEBI at www.sebi.gov.in, websites of the Stock Exchanges i.e. BSE at www.bseindia.com and NSE at www.nseindia.com, respectively and is also available on the websites of the DRHPs, i.e. Kotak Mahindra Capital Company Limited at <https://investments.kotak.com>, Axis Capital Limited at www.axiscapital.co.in, BofA Securities India Limited at www.mfi-india.com, Citigroup Global Markets India Private Limited at www.online.citibank.co.in/html/citigroupglobalbscreen1.htm, Goldman Sachs (India) Securities Private Limited at www.goldmansachs.com, ICICI Securities Limited at www.icicisecurities.com, JM Financial Limited at www.jmfi.com, J.P. Morgan India Private Limited at www.jpimfi.com, Nomura Financial Advisory and Securities (India) Private Limited at www.nomuraholdings.com/company/group/asia/india/index.html and SBI Capital Markets Limited at www.sbicapm.com. Potential investors should note that investment in equity shares involves a high degree of risk and for details relating to such risk, please see the section titled 'Risk Factors' of the DRHP when filed. Potential investors should not rely on the DRHP filed with SEBI for making any investment decision. Specific attention of the investors is invited to 'Risk Factors' beginning on page 23 of the DRHP.

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